REMARKS

A. Status of the Application

- Claims 19, 20, 25 to 28, 31 and 53 to 66 are pending in the application, of which claims 19, 53 and 60 are independent claims.
- Claims 19, 25-28, 31 and 53-66 are amended.

Accordingly, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. Applicants have amended the claims to recite particular embodiments that Applicants, in their business judgment, have determined to be commercially desirable at this time. The claim amendments have not been submitted for any reasons relating to patentability.

Applicants intend to pursue the subject matter of the previously cancelled claims, in one or more continuing applications.

B. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

On page 2, the Office Action rejected claims 19-20, 25-28, 31 and 53-66 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. In light of the claim amendments, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is moot.

Therefore, claims 19, 20, 25-28, 31 and 53-66 are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons noted above.

C. General Comments on Dependent Claims

Each dependent claim is patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim on which it depends. Thus, Applicants believe that it is unnecessary at this time to argue the allowability of each dependent claim individually. However, Applicants do not necessarily concur with the interpretation of the dependent claims as set forth in the Office Action, nor do Applicants concur that the basis for the rejection of any of the dependent claims is proper. Therefore, Applicants reserve the right to specifically address the patentability of the dependent claims in the future, if deemed necessary.

D. Conclusion

In general, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as a concession of any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,

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